

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-10 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,148,200 ("Lahtinen"). In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant relies on M.P.E.P. § 2131, entitled "Anticipation – Application of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) and (e)" which states, "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Applicant respectfully submits that Lahtinen does not describe each and every element of independent claim 1.

The claimed invention is directed to a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor Location Register, the mobile subscriber roaming number is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules. Claim 1 recites: "[a] method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number, wherein in a Visitor Location Register, the mobile subscriber roaming number is managed by a plurality of Visitor Location Register modules, characterized in that: said mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number, and said Visitor Location Register module number is utilized to directly determine the correspondence relationship between said assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and the Visitor Location Register module in said Visitor Location Register that manages said mobile subscriber roaming number." Accordingly, in claim 1, a Mobile Subscriber Roaming Number ("MSRN") comprises a Visitor Location Register ("VLR") module number. For example, in one embodiment of the claimed invention, the structure of the MSRN number is:

***Country Code ("CC") + MSC number + VLR module number + MRSN
information table record number***

Thus, in a system where the MSRN is managed by a plurality of VLR modules, a specific VLR module can be located according to the MSRN. When a Mobile Switching Center ("MSC") receives a MSRN as claimed in claim 1, the relationship between an assigned mobile subscriber roaming number and a VLR module in the VLR that manages the mobile subscriber roaming number can be determined. Accordingly, the present invention facilitates message routing in a system having a plurality of VLR modules.

In contrast, Lahtinen is directed to a method for reducing the amount of paging needed if the data of a visitor location register (VLR) is lost by dividing the area covered by a VLR into a plurality of logical visitor location registers (LVLRn). *See* Abstract. Thus, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest a method for assigning a mobile subscriber roaming number wherein the mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a Visitor Location Register module number as claimed in independent claims 1 and 7. Further, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest the concept of a VLR module.

The Office Action asserts that the logical visitor location registers LVLRn of Lahtinen are the same as the claimed VLR modules of the present invention. This assertion is incorrect. The LVRn is based on a geographical location and is a logical representation of a divided area of a physical VLR. *See* Col. 3, lines 1-3 and Claim 3. Thus, when the VLR of the system described in Lahtinen is unavailable, the LVRn (provided via the HLR) allows a mobile station to only be paged in the area of the LVRn. *See* Col. 3, lines 20-30.

In contrast, the VLR module number of the claimed invention is provided in the MSRN and is not stored in the HLR. Further, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest a mobile subscriber roaming number comprises a VLR module number as claimed in claims 1 and 7. Instead, Lahtinen discloses that the LVR number (nn) only appears in the GT code of the VLR. *See* Col. 3, lines 13-20 and lines 45-55. Accordingly, the MSRN structure employed in the claimed invention is not disclosed in Lahtinen.

Accordingly, when the VLR is implemented by distributed multiple processing mechanisms i.e., VLR modules, the VLR modules can be located quickly upon receipt by the VLR of a message. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1 and 7

and that the rejection be withdrawn. In addition, claims 2 and 5, 6 and 8-10 depend from one of claims 1 or 7 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lahtinen in view of Applicant's admitted prior art ("AAPA").

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to further patentable limitations recited therein.

For example, the LVLR disclosed in Lahtinen represents location information, not VLR module information. Therefore, Lahtinen does not disclose, teach or suggest that the MSRN contains the information about the number of VLR modules. The VLR is a real-time database, which is implemented by one node or a plurality of nodes. In the case of a plurality of nodes, the allocating manners of MSRN are various, that is, a fix allocating manner by using a single node may be used, or a allocating manner by using a part of every node may be used, or the method provided by the present invention also may be used. In contrast, Lahtinen indicates that a MSC is located based on a MSRN but not by a MSRN comprising a VLR module as claimed in the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 3 and 4 and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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